

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2779

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 723

FOR NEA/ARN KORN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, SY

SUBJ: EMBASSY PHYSICAL SECURITY (INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS
NO 101 AND 102)

REF: STATE 43069

A. RECOMMENDATION 101

1. DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE INSPECTION OF AUGUST 1974
THE EMBASSY HAS MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN IMPROVING ITS
PHYSICAL SECURITY. THE FOLLOWING STEPS HAVE ALREADY
BEEN TAKEN:

A. A MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT COMMENCED PROTEC-
TION OF THE CHANCERY IN SEPTEMBER 1974.

B. A RESIDENT REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER ARRIVED AT
POST ON FEBRUARY 11, 1975.

C. ACCESS TO AREAS ABOVE THE GROUND FLOOR IS NOW
CONTROLLED BY A STEEL GATE ELECTRICALLY OPERATED BY THE
MARINE GUARD.

D. IRON GRILLS ARE BEING INSTALLED ON ALL EX-
TERIOR WINDOWS AND DOORS WHICH DO NOT ALREADY HAVE
THEM.

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E. EXTERNAL LIGHTING OF THE CHANCERY GROUNDS

IS CURRENTLY BEING IMPROVED.

F. FUNDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR PROVIDING SHATTER PROOF MATERIAL TO ALL WINDOW GLASS.

G. A LOCAL GUARD FORCE NOW PATROLS THE GROUNDS OF THE CHANCERY ON A 24 HOUR BASIS.

H. BURGLAR SIREN ALARMS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON GOVERNMENT OWNED VEHICLES AND PERSONALLY OWNED VEHICLES.

I. THE INVENTORY OF "SECURITY PACKAGE" EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE ORDERED AS REQUIRED.

J. FINALLY THE RECENTLY ARRIVED RSO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TIGHTENING UP PHYSICAL SECURITY WHEREVER NECESSARY.

B. RECOMMENDATION 102

1. THE EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF TWO TENNIS COURTS ON THE "GARDEN SITE" GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY IN DAMASCUS WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MURPHY

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